

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USNATO

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USEEC

NAIROBI PASS DON KING-USDEL UNEP MEETING

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECE, SENV
SUBJECT: ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING AND PREPARATIONS FOR
SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENT MEETING

SUMMARY: MAY 23 ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING HEARD REPORT
ON STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR JUNE 7-9 SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. EAST
HAS INDICATED INTENTION TO TAKE PREPARATORY PROCESS
SERIOUSLY AND TO UPGRADE IN SOME CASES LEVEL OF THEIR
DELEGATIONS. EAST ALSO WANTS TO HOLD GENERAL DISCUSSION
AT ENVIRONMENT HIGH-LEVEL MEETING. EC-9 COORDINATION NOT
EXPECTED TO GET UNDERWAY UNTIL AFTER JUNE 1, BUT WE EXPECT
THEY WILL WANT MECHANISMS ESTABLISHED BY SAEP TO REVIEW
ALL FIVE TOPICS PROPOSED BY STANOVNIK. CAUCUS ELECTED
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AMB. NOTERDAEME OF BELGIUM ITS NEW CHAIRMAN AND DISCUSSED
PROBLEM WITH REPORT OF 33RD PLENARY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MAY 23 ECE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WESTERN CAUCUS
MEETING, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTED FOLLOWING POINTS
MADE TO HIM BY STANOVNIK REGARDING JUNE 7-9 SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

(SAEP) MEETING: (A) SECRETARIAT WILL NOT PRESENT A DOCUMENT FOR THIS MEETING IN VIEW OF THE DELICATE NATURE OF RESOLUTION 1 (XXXIII). (B) STANOVNIK HAS WARNED EAST AGAINST POLITICIZING THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND GIVING OVER-GENERAL PRESENTATIONS. (C) SAEP MEETING SHOULD ESTABLISH MACHINERY (I.E., WORKING GROUPS) FOR WORK ON TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION (TBAP) AND LOW-WASTE/NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY (LW/NW) TOPICS. (D) SECRETARIAT ENVISAGES FOLLOWING TIMING FOR FURTHER MEETINGS AFTER THE JUNE 7-9 MEETING: WORKING PARTIES START MEETING IN JUNE AND FORM SUB-GROUPS IF NECESSARY, SAEP MEETINGS IN OCTOBER ("TO GIVE POLITICAL GUIDANCE"), DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY (TO APPROVE FINAL REPORT TO COMMISSION).

2. CAUCUS AGREED THAT THE PRESENT SAEP OFFICERS SHOULD SERVE AS OFFICERS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSIONS AND, IF THE EAST HAS NO OBJECTIONS, TO DELETE ITEM "ELECTION OF OFFICERS" FROM THE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 7 MEETING. THEREFORE ASSUME OES/HERB SPIELMAN, THE WESTERN RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SENIOR ADVISERS, WILL BE ON USDEL, ADVISE. WASHINGTON DELEGATION TO SAEP MEETING SHOULD NOTE CAUCUS WILL MEET JUNE 6 AT 1700 HOURS TO REVIEW PREPARATIONS FOR SAEP MEETING AND AMBASSADOR WISHES MEET WITH DELEGATION AT 1600.

3. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM SECRETARIAT (STILLMAN) THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBASSADOR DOMOKOS OF HUNGARY, THE NEW EASTERN CAUCUS CHAIRMAN, HAS ASSURED STANOVNIK THAT EAST IS PREPARED TO "DO SERIOUS BUSINESS" DURING THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT HIGH-LEVEL MEETING (HLM) AND THAT MANY EASTERN STATES WILL UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF THEIR DELEGATIONS TO THE SAEP MEETING. EAST HAS ALSO INDICATED TO STANOVNIK THEIR DESIRE THAT AGENDA FOR ENVIRONMENT HLM INCLUDE A GENERAL DISCUSSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS; IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO GET THIS, EAST MAY WANT TO PUSH FOR POSSIBLE THIRD TOPICS SUCH AS FLORA AND FAUNA AS A VEHICLE BY WHICH THEY CAN HOLD A GENERAL DISCUSSION. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD FROM SECRETARIAT, BUT HAVE NOT HAD CHANCE TO CONFIRM, THAT USSR WILL BE REPRESENTED AT SAEP MEETING BY ITS GENEVA MISSION ECONOMIC MINISTER ORNATSKI AS THEIR REGULAR SENIOR ADVISER IS NO LONGER OCCUPYING THE SAME JOB AND AS SOVIETS ALSO SEE JUNE 7-9 MEETING AS PRIMARILY ORGANIZATIONAL IN NATURE.

4. AS THE C-9'S ENVIRONMENT SPECIALISTS ARE IN NAIROBI FOR UNEP MEETING, EC-9 REPS DO NOT EXPECT COMMUNITY COORDINATION TO GET UNDERWAY UNTIL AFTER JUNE 1. BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH MISSION REP AND STATEMENT BY

AMB. NOTERDAEME DURING WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING, WE EXPECT COMMUNITY WILL BE CONCERNED DURING SAEP MEETING THAT SOME MECHANISM BE SET UP TO CONSIDER ALL OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL BY STANOVNIK IN DOCUMENT ECE/936. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS GENERAL CONSENSUS ON THE NEED TO HAVE SAEP FORM WORKING GROUPS AND SUB-GROUPS FOR TBAP AND LW/NW TOPICS. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER EC-9 WILL WANT TO HAVE WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED FOR EACH OF THE OTHER TOPICS LISTED IN ECE/936 OR WOULD ACCEPT ONE WORKING GROUP LOOKING AT ALL TOPICS OTHER THAN TBAP AND LOW/NW. ON THE OTHER HAND, NORWEGIAN REP HAS INDICATED THAT WEST MAY WANT TO SUPPORT FORMATION THIRD WORKING

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GROUP SO THAT PEOPLE SUCH AS THE GREEKS WHO WANT TO DISCUSS WATER CAN BE ASSURED THAT THIS TOPIC WILL BE CONSIDERED FURTHER. COMMENT: MISSION'S INITIAL REACTION IS THAT U.S. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT LATTER PROPOSAL. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE FEASIBLE TO FOCUS SAEP'S ATTENTION EXCLUSIVELY ON TBAP AND LW/NW GIVEN EC-9'S POSITION, EAST'S DESIRE FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION AND INTERESTS OF SOME MEDITERRANEAN STATES; THEREFORE, HAVING A THIRD CATCH-ALL WORKING GROUP WOULD BE ONE WAY TO ACCOMMODATE THESE INTERESTS WITHOUT INTERFERING TOO MUCH WITH

WORK ON TBAP AND LW/NW.

5. AT CAUCUS MEETING, AMBASSADOR NOTERDAEME OF BELGIUM WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE CAUCUS. HE WILL SERVE UNTIL THE 34TH PLENARY. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN CAPPELEN OF NORWAY IN FAREWELL COMMENTS SAID THAT CAUCUS SHOULD GIVE SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOUGHT TO ENSURING THAT IN FILLING COMMISSION AND CAUCUS OFFICES, THERE IS ADEQUATE ROTATION AMONG MEMBERS AND THAT THE CAUCUS'S PROCEDURES DURING CONTACT GROUP NEGOTIATIONS ARE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW ALL THOSE WHO HAVE A STRONG INTEREST TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. CAPPELEN STATEMENT RESULTS FROM UNHAPPINESS ON PART OF A NUMBER OF NON-EC-9 COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY IN MEDITERRANEAN AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN GROUP) THAT AN EC-9 AMBASSADOR WOULD FOR THE THIRD TIME IN FOUR YEARS BE CHAIRING WESTERN CAUCUS. ALSO SOME COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY SWITZERLAND, FELT THAT THE PRACTICE OF HAVING ONLY ONE CAUCUS SPOKESMAN IN THE CONTACT GROUP DURING THE PLENARY DID NOT ALLOW FOR ALL VIEWS TO BE EXPRESSED.

6. CAUCUS ALSO HEARD REPORT REGARDING ADOPTION OF REPORT FROM 33RD SESSION. WASHINGTON MAY RECALL THAT AFTER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 1 (XXXIII) SOVIET DELEGATE, IN WHAT WERE CALLED PRIVATE COMMENTS, MADE A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE RESERVED ON PARTS OF THE RESOLUTION. THE TWO RAPPORTEURS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING SINCE THE 33RD SESSION TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR INCLUDING THIS STATEMENT, PLUS THAT OF EASTERN CAUCUS CHAIRMAN AND WESTERN CAUCUS REPLY, IN FINAL REPORT. CAUCUS AGREED TO ACCEPT BRIEF SUMMARY OF EACH STATEMENT IN REPORT. AMB. KASTOFT OF DENMARK STRESSED THAT WEST SHOULD, IN THE FUTURE, WHEN NEGOTIATING A RESOLUTION, GET A COMMITMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO COMMENTS AFTER ITS ADOPTION. DUTCH AMBASSADOR URGED WEST TO TELL EAST THAT SOVIET STATEMENT AFTER THE 33RD PLENARY CONFIRMED THE SUSPICION OF MANY THAT EAST IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT HOLDING A MEANINGFUL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITH SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS, BUT ONLY WANTS A PROPAGANDA EXERCISE. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING EAST AGREED TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE SUMMARY STATEMENTS. VANDEN HEUVEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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